



COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – SIXTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Press Release

For Immediate Release
July 29, 2009

Contact: Kevin Smith
619-675-4458 (cell), 619-533-6469 (office)

FRYE, GLORIA & GOLDSMITH OPEN LONG AWAITED RUFFIN CANYON PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL

Tunnel links Ruffin Canyon, Normal Heights Canyon and the San Diego River

San Diego, CA- Today, Councilmember Donna Frye, Councilmember Todd Gloria, and City Attorney Jan Goldsmith officially opened up the Ruffin Canyon Pedestrian Tunnel. They were joined by Mike Nelson, Executive Director of the San Diego River Conservancy; Tom Sudberry, President of Sudberry Properties; and Mike Neal, President/CEO of H.G. Fenton Co.

Councilmember Frye said, "This pedestrian path will connect Ruffin Canyon to the San Diego River and Normal Heights Canyon, giving residents a pathway through a beautiful section of San Diego's canyon system that they can use to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. The opening of the tunnel will provide people with choices; it gives them a healthy option to get around the community. This is an example of increased pedestrian and bicycle connections which will help make Mission Valley a more walkable neighborhood."

"Pedestrian access to the San Diego River from upland communities like Normal Heights currently consists of a few renegade trails and informal footpaths," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Normal Heights Canyons and the San Diego River Conservancy, continued safe hiking access will be established between the communities on the mesa and the river."

The tunnel, 15 feet high and wide, was built in the late 1960's for trucks mining a quarry north of Friars Road across from what is now the Fenton Marketplace shopping center. The tunnel was locked in the 1980's with iron gates for security reason. Ruffin Canyon, which runs through the communities of Serra Mesa and Mission Valley, is 84 acres of dedicated parkland. Normal Heights Canyon is approximately 100 acres, the combined 184 acres will complement 8 miles of the San Diego River that runs through Mission Valley (the River is 52 miles long).

"We are pleased that our Office through the good work of Deputy City Attorney Kim Davies helped make this project a reality. We congratulate Councilmember Frye and all the participants," said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

After the press conference, the Friends of Ruffin Canyon led a hike through the canyon. For information, go to: <http://www.serramesa.org/ruffincanyon.asp>.

Donna Frye is the City Councilmember for the Sixth Council District of the City of San Diego and is currently the chair of the Council's Natural Resources and Culture committee. Frye is Chair of the San Diego River Conservancy. Todd Gloria is the City Councilmember for the Third Council District of the City of San Diego and is currently chair of the Council's Land Use & Housing Committee, which includes the communities of Hillcrest, North Park, University Heights, Normal Heights, City Heights, Kensington, Talmadge, South Park, and Golden Hill. Jan Goldsmith was sworn-in as City Attorney in December 2008 and serves as the chief legal adviser of, and attorney for the City of San Diego.

###